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Reply to office action mailed 03/02/2004

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

- 1 1 (Currently Amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:
 - 2 an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data
 - 3 from an input apparatus connected thereto, and converts said analog audio
 - 4 data to digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data therefrom;
 - 5 ~~a plurality of decompression firmwares stored in ROM;~~
 - 6 a playback/recording processing section ~~having a compression section~~
which compresses said digital audio data output from said audio input
 - 7 processing section and stores into a ~~RAM~~ said compressed digital audio data
 - 8 in a RAM, and further and attribution data indicating a type of a compression
 - 9 of said compressed digital audio data, and having an expansion section which
 - 10 decompresses said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM by using
 - 11 a decompression firmware selected from among said plurality of
 - 12 decompression firmwares based on the attribution data;
 - 13 an audio output processing section, which ~~receives decompressed~~
 - 14 ~~digital audio data, converts said decompressed digital audio data output from~~
 - 15 ~~said audio input processing section or digital audio data expanded by said~~
 - 16 ~~playback/recording processing section~~ to analog audio data, and outputs said
 - 17 analog audio data to an output apparatus which is connected to said audio
 - 18 output processing section;
 - 19 an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital
 - 20 audio data stored in said RAM into an external recording medium, and reads
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22 out compressed digital audio data from said external recording medium, and
23 stores said readout data into said RAM;

24 a general-purpose interface section which includes which transfers
25 digital audio data and authorization data to an external apparatus and receives
26 digital audio data and authorization data thereof from an external apparatus;

27 a protection processing section which performs protection processing
28 of said digital audio data, said protection processing section having an
29 encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data, a decryption section
30 which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data generation
31 section which generates authorization data including an individual identifier
32 and a decryption key that are sent to said external apparatus connected to said
33 general-purpose interface section, an authorization data verification section
34 which compares said individual identifier included in said authorization data
35 from the external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface
36 section with an individual identifier list stored in a ROM and checks
37 properness of a transmitting party;

38 a ROM into which software used in processing in said
39 playback/recording processing section and said protection processing section
40 are stored as firmware, and said individual identifier and said decryption key
41 used by said protection processing section are stored;

42 a RAM which stores the compressed digital audio data output from
43 said compressed digital audio data or read out from said external recording
44 circuit section or input to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and
45 software read out from said ROM;

46 an expanded RAM into which digital audio data are stored in a case in
47 which it is not possible to store digital audio data in said RAM; and

48 a controller which controls the audio input processing section, the
49 playback/recording processing section, the audio output section, the external

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50 recording circuit section, the general-purpose interface circuit section, the
51 protection processing section, the ROM, the RAM, and the expanded RAM,
52 and selects appropriate processing files to process said digital audio data from
53 among files stored in the ROM, and stores said selected files in the RAM,
54 before said playback/recording processing section performs compression,
55 expansion, encryption, and decryption of the digital audio data.

Claims 2-5. Canceled

1 Claim 6 (currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus
2 according to claim 1 5, wherein said further comprising an authorization data
3 writing section which writes said authorization data within a header
4 information section of said digital audio data.

Claim 7. Canceled

1 Claim 8 (new). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1
2 wherein said interfaces of said general-purpose interface circuit section are
3 selected from the group consisting of USB, IEEE1394, wireless LAN, and
4 Home RF.

1 Claim 9 (new). A playback/recording method of digital audio data using an
2 audio playback/recording apparatus having a playback/recording processing
3 section, an audio output processing section, an external recording circuit
4 section, a general-purpose interface circuit section, a protection processing
5 section, a ROM, a RAM, and an expanded RAM, said method comprising:

6 A) in a case in which input data input to the audio playback/recording
7 apparatus are playbacked and recorded on an external recording medium,

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8 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from an
9 input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog audio data to
10 digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the audio output
11 processing section and playback/recording processing section,

12 said audio output processing section converts said received digital
13 audio data to analog audio data and playbacks said converted analog audio
14 data,

15 said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital
16 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and

17 after said audio output processing section playbacks said digital audio
18 data, said external recording circuit section records compressed digital audio
19 data stored in said RAM into an external recording medium;

20 B) in a case in which input data input to the audio playback/recording
21 apparatus are recorded on an external recording medium,

22 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from an
23 input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog data audio data to
24 digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the playback/recording
25 processing section,

26 said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital
27 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and

28 said external recording circuit section records compressed digital audio
29 data stored in said RAM on the external recording medium;

30 C) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording medium
31 are playbacks,

32 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
33 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout data
34 into said RAM,

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35 said playback/recording processing section decompresses said
36 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, and
37 said audio output processing section converts said decompressed
38 digital audio data to analog audio data and outputs said converted analog data
39 to an output apparatus and playbacks said analog audio data;
40 D) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording medium
41 are transferred to an external apparatus,
42 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
43 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout data
44 into said RAM,
45 said protection processing section generates authorization data
46 including an individual identifier and a decryption key so as to encrypt data
47 and encrypts said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, said
48 general-purpose interface circuit section outputs said authorization data to said
49 external apparatus, after that, outputs encrypted compressed digital audio data
50 to said external apparatus; and
51 E) in a case in which input data received from an external apparatus
52 are recorded on an external recording medium,
53 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives authorization
54 data from the external apparatus,
55 said protection processing section compares said individual identifier
56 included in said authorization data from the external apparatus with an
57 individual identifier list stored in the ROM and checks a properness of a
58 transmitting party,
59 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives encrypted
60 compressed digital audio data from the external apparatus and stores them in
61 the RAM,

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62 said protection processing section decrypts encrypted compressed
63 digital audio data stored in the RAM by using the decryption key included in
64 the authorization data, and

65 said external recording circuit section records the compressed digital
66 audio data stored in the RAM into the external recording medium.